

# American Academy of Pediatrics

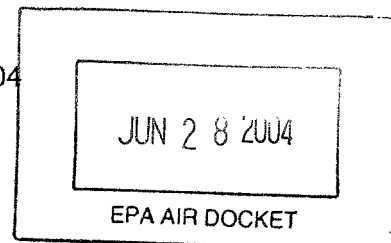
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



## Louisiana Chapter

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### Environmental Protection Agency

#### EPA Docket Center

Attn: Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0056

VIA FAX 202-566-1741

Dear EPA:

As a practicing pediatrician and President of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I write to ask that you withdraw your proposed regulations on power plant emissions of mercury. They do not address this critical problem in a way that will prevent further exposure to newborns.

Caring for infants with neurological disorders is difficult and expensive. They are compromised in so many ways that it is difficult to explain the magnitude of the problem in a brief letter. They try the health care delivery system, the education system, and the family's ability to cope and care for them. Your analysis estimates that some 630,000 babies per year are born with mercury blood levels at or above the safety limit. Your "CAP and TRADE" policy will continue unacceptable levels of mercury in some areas that will continue permanent harm to newborns. This is unacceptable.

I urge you to withdraw your proposed regulations in favor of real protection. The cost to industry to fix this problem now is minor when compared to the cost to families and society to care for children with lifelong damage from mercury exposure.

Sincerely,

Keith M. Perrin, MD, FAAP  
President